

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 25, 2025

Acting Administrator Stephen Ehikian
U.S. General Services Administration
1800 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20405

Dear Acting Administrator Ehikian:

We write to follow up to our March 7 letter regarding the General Services Administration's (GSA) ongoing efforts to cancel leases and sell off federally owned facilities in concert with the U.S. Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). We remain particularly concerned with the unacceptable impacts that would result from the unilateral forced relocations of Congressional offices or other Legislative Branch agencies.

Unfortunately, GSA has failed to respond in a timely way. This lack of responsiveness to Congress is unacceptable. GSA is funded and overseen by Congress and is accountable to the American people and their duly elected representatives in Congress. A lack of transparency, combined with uncoordinated and chaotic policy announcements and execution, is the opposite of "government efficiency."

Nevertheless, we are encouraged by reports and information that we have received through other channels that GSA has stopped its misguided plans to cancel leases or divest buildings that host Legislative Branch agencies and offices. We are also pleased that GSA and DOGE are no longer pursuing lease terminations or taking steps to divest buildings that host Members of Congress offices in their home states and districts. These reports were confirmed by GSA's press release issued Friday afternoon on March 21 with a reduced list of buildings identified for divestment.

As noted in our March 7 letter, Members of Congress utilize offices across the country to carry out their constitutional duties within their home states and districts. We reiterate that closing facilities that host Congressional offices and forcing them to relocate would directly interfere with Congress's constitutional duties, pose significant security risks, and cause disruption to essential constituent services. We are relieved that GSA and DOGE have heeded our strong objections and reversed course.

However, DOGE and GSA have continued their indiscriminate firing of GSA Congressional Support staff and regional building management staff, leaving dozens of federal buildings with Congressional tenants without adequate support. DOGE and GSA should similarly reverse course on these untargeted and short-sighted staff reductions that risk disrupting congressional operations.

We all share the stated goals of ensuring efficient use of federal office space and being responsible stewards of taxpayer funds. GSA should consult with Legislative Branch tenants and reach appropriate agreements that ensure safety, security, and avoid disrupting operations. If DOGE and GSA again consider unilaterally terminating leases or divesting buildings that host Congressional or other Legislative Branch offices, you should immediately notify Congressional leadership, the Senate and House Sergeants-at-Arms, the Senate Rules Committee, and the Committee on House Administration on a bipartisan basis.

Thank you for your continued attention to these important considerations when it comes to Legislative Branch use of GSA facilities.

Sincerely,



Alex Padilla
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee
on Rules and Administration



Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress
Ranking Member, Committee
on House Administration